

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A rail clip for attaching a rail to a post, the rail clip comprising:

a bracket adapted to be mounted on the post, the bracket having ~~a front~~ an outer wall;

a rail connector having a rear wall which lies in abutting contact with the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket;

a first connector mechanism disposed on the rail connector and bracket that interlocks the rail connector and bracket together; whereby the rear wall of the rail connector is slidably movable along the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket to allow the rail connector to be placed at a desired position on the outer wall of the bracket; and

a second connector mechanism fixedly connecting the rail connector to the bracket; and wherein said second connector mechanism is engaged ~~when once~~ the rail connector is disposed at ~~a~~ the desired position on the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket.
2. (Currently amended) A rail clip as defined in claim 1, in which the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket is arcuate and the rail connector slidably engages the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket and wherein the position of the rail connector is adjusted by sliding the rail connector along the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket.

3. (Currently amended) A rail clip ~~as defined in claim 2,~~ for attaching a rail to a post, the rail clip comprising:

a bracket adapted to be mounted on the post, the bracket having an arcuate outer wall;

a rail connector having a rear wall which lies in abutting contact with the outer wall of the bracket and slidingly engages the same; and wherein the position of the rail connector on the outer wall is adjusted by sliding the rail connector along the outer wall of the bracket.

a first connector mechanism disposed on the rail connector and bracket which interlocks the rail connector and bracket together; and which allows the rear wall of the rail connector to slidingly move along the outer wall of the bracket to a desired position thereon; and wherein the first connector mechanism comprises:

a first groove formed in one of the rail connector and the bracket; and

a boss formed in the other of the rail connector and the bracket; whereby the boss and groove interlock with each other and allow sliding arcuate movement between the rail connector and bracket while substantially preventing the axial or lateral separation of the rail connector from the bracket; and

a second connector mechanism to fixedly connect the rail connector to the bracket; and wherein said second connector mechanism is engaged when the rail connector is disposed at the desired position on the outer wall of the bracket.

4. (Currently amended) A rail clip as defined in claim 3, in which the second mechanism comprises at least one fastener that extends from the rear wall of the rail connector and into the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket and thereby fixably connects the bracket and rail connector together, substantially preventing further relative movement between the bracket and the rail connector.
5. (Currently amended) A rail clip as defined in claim 1, in which the rear wall of the rail connector is complementary shaped to the ~~front~~ outer wall of the bracket; and wherein the rail connector further comprises a peripheral wall extending forwardly and outwardly away from the rear wall of the rail connector; said peripheral wall ~~and~~ defining an ~~internal~~ interior cavity therein, said cavity being adapted to receive an end of a rail therein.
6. (Currently amended) A The rail clip as defined in claim 5 for attaching a rail to a post, the rail clip comprising:
a bracket adapted to be mounted on the post, the bracket having an outer wall;
a rail connector having a rear wall complementary shaped to the outer wall of the bracket and disposed in abutting contact therewith; and the rail connector further having
a peripheral wall that extends forwardly and outwardly away from the rear wall thereof;
said peripheral wall defining an interior cavity therein which is adapted to receive an
end of the rail therein; and wherein the rear wall of the rail connector is concave in shape and projects partially into the interior cavity defined by the peripheral wall of the rail connector;

a first connector mechanism disposed on the rail connector and bracket and which interlocks the rail connector and bracket together; such that the rear wall of the rail connector is slidingly movable along the outer wall of the bracket to any desired position; and

a second connector mechanism fixedly connecting the rail connector to the bracket; and wherein said second connector mechanism is engaged when the rail connector is disposed at the desired position on the outer wall of the bracket.

7. (Currently amended) A rail clip as defined in claim 5, in which a portion of the peripheral wall includes side walls each having an interior face adapted to abut a rail received with the interior cavity of the peripheral wall, an exterior face and front and back edges, wherein the front edges of the side walls lie remote from the bracket when the rail connector and bracket are engaged together, and wherein each of the side walls extend extends a short distance inwardly rearwardly beyond the rear wall of the rail connector thereby forming a lip between the back edge of the each side wall and the rear wall of the rail connector; and wherein the lips abut an outer surface of the bracket .

8. (Original) A rail clip as defined in claim 7, in which the back edges of the side walls are concave in shape.

9. (Currently amended) A rail clip as defined in claim 8, in which the back edge of the side walls is adapted to be complementary shaped with the ~~front~~ outer wall of

the bracket.

10. (Original) A rail clip as claimed in claim 9, in which the lip further includes a ridge, the ridge running along the back edge of the side wall.
11. (Previously presented) A rail clip as claimed in claim 10, in which the bracket defines a first groove and the ridge of the rail connector interlocks with the first groove so as to connect the rail connector and bracket together while allowing sliding engagement between the bracket and rail connector; the ridge and first groove comprising the first mechanism for securing the bracket and rail connector together.
12. (Original) The rail clip as defined in claim 1, wherein the bracket has a rear wall and the rear wall is substantially flat and is adapted to abut a substantially flat wall on the post.
13. (Previously presented) The rail clip as defined in claim 1, wherein the said second connector mechanism extends through the rear wall of the rail connector and into the outer wall of the bracket.
14. (Previously presented) The rail clip as defined in claim 13, wherein the second connector mechanism is a screw.

15. (New) The rail clip as defined in claim 3, in which the rail connector further comprises a peripheral wall extending forwardly and outwardly from the rear wall of the rail connector; said peripheral wall defining an interior cavity therein, said cavity being adapted to receive an end of a rail therein.
16. (New) The rail clip as defined in claim 15, wherein an inner surface of the rear wall of the rail connector is concave in shape and projects partially into the interior cavity defined by the peripheral wall.
17. (New) The rail clip as defined in claim 15, in which a portion of the peripheral wall includes side walls which each extend a short distance rearwardly beyond the rear wall of the rail connector and terminate in a back edge; and wherein the bracket includes side walls which define the first groove therein; and wherein the boss, which is interlockingly received with the first groove of each bracket side wall, is disposed on that portion of each side wall of the rail connector that extends beyond the rear wall thereof.
18. (New) The rail clip as defined in claim 17, in which the back edges of the side walls of the rail connector are concave in shape.
19. (New) The rail clip as defined in claim 6, wherein the said second connector mechanism extends through the rear wall of the rail connector and into the outer wall of the bracket.

20. (New) The rail clip as defined in claim 6, wherein the second connector mechanism is a screw.